

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 62. (Canceled)

63. (New) A machine for applying a film to the end face of a cork which includes

- a) a web of film
- b) a web cutting and disc applying station to adhere a disc of film to the end face of a cork
- c) a bonding station which incorporates a heating element said bonding station conforming the film to the end face of said cork using heat and pressure
- d) a curing station to conform the film to said end face
- e) a carriage for a plurality of corks which conveys the corks past the web cutting, bonding, and curing stations

64. (New) A machine as claimed in claim 63 in which the cutting station cuts a disc of film from the web and the cutter incorporates a heater to heat the film sufficiently to adhere it to the end face of said cork.

65. (New) A machine as claimed in claim 63 which the web of film is spooled to be drawn past the web cutting station and after a disc is cut from the web, the web is advanced.

66. (New) A machine as claimed in claim 63 in which the curing station also cools the heated end face.

67. (New) A machine as claimed in claim 63 which includes a cork hopper shaped at its lower end to feed corks into the carriage.

68. (New) A machine as claimed in claim 67 in which the cork carriage includes individual recesses for holding corks with an end face exposed.

69. (New) A method of applying a disc of film to an end face of a cork which includes the steps of

- a) conveying corks with an end face exposed past a web of film
- b) cutting a disc from the web and applying it to the exposed end face of said cork
- c) applying heat and pressure to adhere the film to said end face
- d) allowing the bond to cure before removing the corks.

70. (New) A method as claimed in claim 69 in which the film disc after cutting is heated sufficiently to adhere it to the end face of said cork.

71. (New) A method as claimed in claim 69 in which the web of film is incrementally advanced after a disc is cut from the web.